

Medical Expense Tax Credit

The medical expenses tax credit is available for Canadian tax residents as a non-refundable credit.

Essentially, taxpayers can claim as a tax credit in a year any eligible medical expenses the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse or the taxpayer's dependants incur over a 12 month period that ends in that year.

Being a non-refundable credit, the medical expenses tax credit can only offset income taxes payable and will not result in a tax refund even where no tax is owed.

This tax credit can be claimed for a wide range of medical expenses, from:

- prescribed medical tests
- drugs
- eyeglasses
- personal attendants
- special care facilities

However there is a floor for claiming the medical expenses tax credit. The first \$1813 or 3% of the individual's net income for the taxation period, whichever is lower, of medical expenses cannot be claimed. That is to say, the taxpayer must incur over \$1813 or 3% of their net income for that taxation period of medical expenses before they can claim a medical expenses tax credit, and the amount of tax credit that can be claimed is only for the amount that exceeds the above floor.

Disabled persons and their families and guardians should be aware of these benefits and plan accordingly.

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